



THE FARM BILL IN SOUTH DAKOTA



The Farm Bill provides tens of millions of dollars per year in conservation assistance through cost-share, rental payments, easement payments and technical assistance to South Dakota farmers and ranchers. The programs help producers better steward the state's soil, woods, waters and wildlife, and provide conservation and economic benefits.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical support to help farmers and ranchers integrate conservation practices on working lands. In 2023, top South Dakota practices included prescribed grazing, cover crops and pest management conservation systems.




South Dakota in 2023:

- ✔ **\$28 million** obligated to producers from Farm Bill funds.
- ✔ **323 contracts**, making improvements on **305,475 acres**.

Conservation Stewardship Program

In 2023, the Farm Bill invested **\$27.5 million** in South Dakota through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). **199 contracts** totaled **554,908 acres** across the state. CSP helps farmers and ranchers implement multiple conservation practices over a five-year contract to enhance their entire operation.

Top South Dakota practices include:

- ✔ Pest management conservation systems
-  Prescribed grazing
-  Nutrient management
-  Reduced tillage



Conservation Reserve Program

In 2023, **14,042 South Dakota farms and ranches** were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), totaling **2.4 million acres**. Of them, 89% held at least one Continuous CRP contract—best known for its practices that can be implemented alongside regular production, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, wetlands and pollinator habitat.

Between 2019-2023, South Dakota landowners received **\$525 million** in annual CRP rental payments.

Conservation Easements

Natural Resources Conservation Service easement programs like the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program help landowners protect their property's conservation value. The agreements can be used to protect farmland, wetlands, grasslands and more. In 2023, there were **1,382 easements** in South Dakota, totaling **157,854 acres**.

The Izaak Walton League and South Dakota

The Izaak Walton League of America was founded in 1922 to conserve outdoor America for future generations. The League's founders, avid anglers, named the organization after Izaak Walton, 17th century author of *The Compleat Angler*, a classic book about the art and spirit of fishing. Today, the League has **12 chapters** and more than **1,700 members in South Dakota**.

One of America's oldest conservation groups, the League set a course to defend wild America through public policy. The organization has been involved in agricultural policy since 1937, when a League resolution called for a national program to retire fragile fields in mountainous areas from agricultural use. Today, more than **41,000 members across the country** continue the legacy.



Sioux Falls, SD Chapter